

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/08/18 : LOC-HAK-548-2-17-3

TOP SECRET 162319Z AUG 72 SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD
VIA BUNKER CHANNELS

TOHAK 49

FROM: SITUATION ROOM
TO: RODMAN/ LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER
CITE: WHS 2122

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
CONTAINS CODEWORD

AUGUST 16, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

[ARMY review completed.]

FROM: SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: EVENING NOTES

[ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY]

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Vietnam Military Situation: Since our last report, Saigon field reports show little change in the tactical situation countrywide.

In Operation Lamson 72, South Vietnamese Marines and Airborne continue to be subjected to moderately heavy enemy attacks - by-fire, but allied casualties are light. Seventy-five enemy have been reported killed in these sporadic actions ranging from the Citadel to south and west of Quang Tri City.

In Military Region 3, the area immediately north of Saigon will come under attack shortly after August 20, according to CIA reports. Two battalions of the Viet Cong (VC) Thu Bien Subregion (TBSR) will attempt to seize and hold the Phu Giao District seat, Binh Duong Province. Other VC local units at the same time will attack smaller towns in the TBSR and attempt to interdict the main routes over which reinforcements could be sent to Phu Giao District. In the meantime, attacks -

BY-FIRE ON U.S. AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE INSTALLATIONS AND MILITARY UNITS ARE TO CONTINUE, IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP FRIENDLY FORCES DISPERSED THROUGHOUT THE REGION. ACCORDING TO THE STAFF, THE UPCOMING SECOND PHASE OF THE ENEMY OFFENSIVE IS DIVIDED INTO QUARTERS, THE LAST OF WHICH WILL OCCUR DURING TET, 1973.

THERE ARE NO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS TO REPORT IN MILITARY REGIONS 2 AND 4.

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-2-

ATTEMPT ON LIFE OF KING HASSAN: ACCORDING TO THE MOROCCAN NEWS AGENCY, A MOROCCAN AIR FORCE FIGHTER FIRED ON THE AIRCRAFT RETURNING KING HASSAN FROM A TRIP TO FRANCE TODAY. THE PLANE LANDED SAFELY, BUT THE RABAT-SALE AIRPORT WAS THEN STRAFED. THE KING WAS NOT INJURED AND RETURNED TO HIS QUARTERS. THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS OF ANTI-HASSAN SENTIMENT AMONG CERTAIN MOROCCAN PILOTS.

RAMSEY CLARK'S TESTIMONY: IN TESTIMONY BEFORE A SENATE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE TODAY, FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK SAID HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT CONTINUED U.S. BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM WOULD INSURE THAT AMERICAN POW'S WOULD NOT BE RELEASED. NORTH VIETNAMESE LEADERS APPEARED SURPRISED WHEN HE ASKED THEM IF THE PRISONERS WOULD BE RELEASED AFTER THE WAR, AS THOUGH THERE WOULD BE NO REASON TO KEEP THEM. CONCEDING THAT HE WAS NOT A

MILITARY MAN, HE THOUGHT THE BOMB DAMAGE HE SAW ON HIS TOUR OF NORTH VIETNAM INDICATED THAT IT WAS DELIBERATE. CLARK SAID HE SAW NO EVIDENCE OF ANTI AIRCRAFT OR MISSILE EMPLACEMENTS ON THE DIKES NOR ANY EVIDENCE THAT FUEL AND WAR MATERIAL WERE BEING STORED ON THEM.

MCGOVERN ADVISES NORTH VIETNAMESE ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS: SEN. GEORGE MCGOVERN HAS SENT WORD TO NORTH VIETNAMESE NEGOTIATORS IN PARIS THAT THEY SHOULD MAKE PEACE WITH PRESIDENT NIXON RATHER THAN WAIT FOR A POSSIBLE CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATIONS, ACCORDING TO FRIENDS OF THE SENATOR.

JOHNSON ENDORSES MCGOVERN: FORMER PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON TODAY ENDORSED SENATOR MCGOVERN FOR PRESIDENT.

WARNKE SUPPORTS SHRIVER'S CONTENTION ABOUT VIETNAM: FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PAUL C. WARNKE SUPPORTED SARGENT

SHRIVER'S CONTENTION THAT PRESIDENT NIXON "BLEW" AN OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE PEACE EARLY IN HIS ADMINISTRATION. WARNKE INTERPRETED "A SIGNIFICANT WITHDRAWAL OF NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES" LATE IN 1968 AS A SIGNAL OF HANOI'S WILLINGNESS TO SCALE DOWN HOSTILITIES.

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-3-

HANOI ARMY PAPER BRANDS PEACE PLAN A "HOAX": HANOI'S ARMY NEWSPAPER TODAY DISMISSED RUMORS OF A NEW VIETNAM PEACE PLAN AS A "PSYWAR HOAX" THOUGHT UP BY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION TO MISLEAD THE PUBLIC. THIS MAY INDICATE THAT THE DAILY THINKS LITTLE WILL COME OF YOUR SAIGON VISIT.

FISCHER - SPASSKY MATCH: THE 14TH GAME OF THE WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP ENDED IN A DRAW. FISCHER NOW LEADS 8 1/2 GAMES TO 5 1/2, WITH 10 GAMES REMAINING.

THE EVENING STAR - DAILY NEWS: AN EDITORIAL STATES THAT YOUR CURRENT VISIT TO SAIGON IS CLEARLY OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN THE SEARCH FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND THAT THE TRIP WOULD BE UNLIKELY IF YOU DID NOT HAVE DEFINITIVE PROPOSALS TO

DISCUSS. IT APPEARS THAT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IS AS CLOSE AS IT HAS BEEN IN MONTHS AND IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF THE PRESIDENT HAD SOMETHING TO SAY ON THE SUBJECT DURING HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH.

JAMES RESTON WRITES THAT YOU DO NOT EXPECT ANY REAL CHANGE IN THE PARIS TALKS UNTIL LATE IN THE CAMPAIGN. YOUR TRIP TO SAIGON IS TO INFORM THIEU OF THE TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF THE PARIS TALKS AND TO COUNTER THE CHARGES THAT THE ADMINISTRATION TALKS TO HANOI BUT NOT TO SAIGON. HE ADDS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS CONTENT TO CARRY ON THE TALKS AND LET HANOI CHOOSE BETWEEN BOMBING AND COMPROMISE.